

# Mifflin Avenue & South Avenue United Methodist Churches

Good Friday

March 29, 2024

1:00 pm



*Good Friday is the day Christians recall the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross. Although Good Friday is one of the most profoundly sad days of the Christian year, many corners of church tradition have continued to call it “good”, revealing that Christ’s death and suffering were not meaningless, but served to liberate humanity from sin and death. Scripture tells us that Christ died at the “sixth hour,” or at noon. In this service, we remember with deep sorrow the suffering and death of an innocent man who is revealed to be the Son of God.*

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

### PRELUDE AND

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'A Reflection on the Cross'

H. Sorenson

### CENTERING WORDS

**Pastor:** Come, let us walk with Christ along the way of his cross.

**People:** **Where you go, we will follow, Lord.**

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

'Via Dolorosa'

Sprague/Borop

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** Jesus, we come—to walk the road with you—to follow you to the cross.

**People:** **We seek to know the agony you suffered here.**

**Pastor:** We prepare ourselves now to follow your footprints in the dust--to understand how you died--to understand how we die.

**People:** **Teach us to endure, as you endured, the scorn of unbelievers and the torments of our enemies.**

**Pastor:** We come to understand how you lived—to understand how we are to live.

**People:** **Help us keep strong faith in you forever. When we falter, rescue us. When we forget your promises, refresh our memories. When we face death, be with us faithfully.**

**Pastor:** Now, as we begin the journey to the cross, we open our hearts and minds to you.

**People:** **We lay aside for these moments the trivialities of our life and bring ourselves into your presence.**

**Pastor:** May God speak to us what we need to hear and help us to hear, not just words that are spoken, but your word spoken afresh in our hearts.

**People:** **Speak for your servant is listening.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, our journey ends here, at the foot of your cross. Darkness is falling. The crowd is restless. Our hearts break as your cries pierce the night. Stay with us, Lord. We need to feel you close. And when the night is over and the journey continues, give us the courage to stay with you. AMEN.**

### ANTHEM

'Olive's Brow'

W. Bradbury

## THE WOUNDS OF CHRIST

### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

#### THE WOUND OF AGONY

Mark 14:32-42

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>"Abba,<sup>[a]</sup> Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.<sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when he knelt alone in prayer?  
Were you there when he knelt alone in prayer?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when he knelt alone in prayer?*

SILENT MEDITATION

### THE WOUND OF BETRAYAL Mark 14:43-50

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."<sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.<sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him.<sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.<sup>48</sup> "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"<sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."<sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when they came to take my Lord?  
Were you there when they came to take my Lord?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they came to take my Lord?*

SILENT MEDITATION

### THE WOUND OF FALSE WITNESS Mark 14:53-62

<sup>53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together.<sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.<sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.<sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.<sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:<sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'"<sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree.<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"<sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"<sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial?  
Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF BEATING**  
**Mark 14:63-65**

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. <sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when my Lord was beat upon?  
Were you there when my Lord was beat upon?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when my Lord was beat upon?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF DENIAL**  
**Mark 14:66-72**

<sup>66</sup> While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup> When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. <sup>68</sup> But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." <sup>70</sup> Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." <sup>71</sup> He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."<sup>72</sup> Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.<sup>[b]</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice<sup>[c]</sup> you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when the denial from Peter came?  
Were you there when the denial from Peter came?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the denial from Peter came?*

SILENT MEDITATION

## THE WOUND OF MANY CHARGES

Mark 15:1-5

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. <sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of “Were You There”

*Were you there when the second trial began?  
Were you there when the second trial began?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the second trial began?*

SILENT MEDITATION

## THE WOUND OF DECEIT

Mark 15:6-15

<sup>6</sup> Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup> A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup> The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. <sup>9</sup> “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup> knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup> “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. <sup>13</sup> “Crucify him!” they shouted. <sup>14</sup> “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of “Were You There”

*Were you there when the crowd turned their backs?  
Were you there when the crowd turned their backs?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the crowd turned their backs?*

SILENT MEDITATION

## THE WOUND OF MOCKERY

Mark 15:15-20

<sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. <sup>16</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup> Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord?  
Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF CRUCIFIXION**  
**Mark 15:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF TAUNTING**  
**Mark 15:25-32**

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>27</sup> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>[28]</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!" <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

*Were you there when they taunted dying Christ?  
Were you there when they taunted dying Christ?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they taunted dying Christ?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF BEING FORSAKEN**  
**Mark 15:33-39**

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” <sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. <sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,<sup>[b]</sup> he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of “Were You There”

*Were you there when my Lord gave up his life?  
Were you there when my Lord gave up his life?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when my Lord gave up his life?*

SILENT MEDITATION

**THE WOUND OF BURIAL**  
**Mark 15:40-47**

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph,<sup>[a]</sup> and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. <sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Pastor: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.  
People: **We have all turned to our own way.**

HYMN

Sung to the tune of “Were You There”

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

SILENT MEDITATION

## WE DRAW NEAR TO GOD CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

**People: I am here.**

Pastor: Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

**People: I am here.**

Pastor: Thomas slave of doubt, where are you?

**People: I am here.**

Pastor: Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

**People: I am here.**

Pastor: Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

**People: I am here.**

Pastor: The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us much of our own weakness and sin. We all come here as men and women who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and our neighbor near and far. Let us join together in prayer of confession.

### LITANY OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases.

**People: I am the one who held the nails.**

Pastor: We accounted him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.

**People: I am the one who raised the hammer.**

Pastor: But he was wounded for our transgressions.

**People: I am the one who rolled the dice.**

Pastor: He was crushed for our iniquities.

**People: I am the one who pointed and laughed.**

Pastor: Upon him was the punishment that made us whole.

**People: I am the one for whom he died.**

Pastor: By his bruises, we are healed.

**All: Father, forgive me, for I know not what I do. I need your cross to make me whole.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

Even as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke words of love. To the thief, to his tormentors, to a world of sinners, our Lord says, "I will remember your sins no more." For you, Jesus carried that cross. For you, Jesus bled and died. For you, Jesus spoke words of love.

### ANTHEM

'Holy Darkness'

Dan Schutte

### CLOSING RESPONSE

Pastor: Go out to keep your vigil at the cross. Let prayer and meditation be a means of transformation.

**People: We carry with us the tragedy of this day, but also its possibilities for reclaiming a heritage and recovering a faith to sustain and move us.**

Pastor: Share the agony of Jesus' rejection and death, knowing how often we add to the pain.

**People: Our intent is to take up our cross and follow. But, we shrink from the anguish and falter at the cost.**

Pastor: Say "yes" to the Christ, without excuses or reservations.

**All: Worthy is the One who was slain, to receive glory and honor and power.**

### ALL DEPART IN SILENCE